SHRI SANATAN BIST: The other thing is whether the criteria of social and economic backwardness will be the factors for deciding the relevant issue?

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: I have already mentioned, Sir, that I had appointed a group to look into this problem. The report of the group has been received and it is under examination. As of now, I am unable to say what would be the Government's decision. But, I expect to announce the decision soon.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Surinder Singla.

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: Thank you, Sir. I want to ask the hon. Finance Minister whether the tax holiday insentive schemes to promote new industries in certain backward areas, for example, in Jammu and Kashmir, are feasible in the context that these tax holiday schemes have made Punjab a totally non-competitive and the most disadvantageous State. Also, I would like to know whether he will consider the request of the State of Punjab to provide a tax holiday scheme for Punjab also which is also economically backward.

The resources of investment are transferred from Punjab to Himachal Pradesh. For example, cotton is being produced in Punjab and new cotton industries are coming up in Himachal Pradesh which is not producing cotton at all, making punjab the most disadvantageous. The second part of the question is what kind of steps he would consider to make these tax holiday schemes operational in terms of territory or in terms of industry.

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: Sir, Himachal Pradesh, by all reckoning, is a very backward State and it needs help and that is why, some two years ago, I had announced a scheme of tax incentives covering Himachal Pradesh. Jammu & Kashmir and the States of the North Eastern Region. It does happen that if you have tax incentives given in a particular State, it will have some adverse effect on the neighbouring States. But, as of now, I feel, there is no strong case for extending the scheme of tax incentives to other neighbouring States.

डा. बापू कालदाते : यह जो औद्योगिक एककों की दृष्टि से अविकसित जिलों की लिस्ट है, वह बहुत पुरानी हो गई है। कई साल पहले इसके बारे में सोचा गया था और जो कुछ भी सुविधायें देनी थीं, उस समय दी थीं। क्या सरकार नई नीति के बाद इसका रिव्यू करने के लिये या अलग से सोचने के लिये कोई विचार कर रही है ?

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: Sir, I have already mentioned with regard to the identification of the backward areas. The Government had appointed a group. The Report of that group has already been received and it is under examination of the Government. I expect to announce the decision of the Government on that Report very shortly.

DR. BAPU KALDATE: 'Very shortly' means when? 'Very shortly' is too long sometimes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shorter than shortly'!

श्री अनन्त राम जायसवाल : क्या माननीय मंत्री जी को यह पता है कि यूं तो पूरा उत्तर प्रदेश ही औद्योगिक रूप से पिछड़ा हुआ है लेकिन उसमें भी अवध का इलाका पूरे तौर मे पिछड़ा हुआ है, जब आप विचार करेंगे इस पर तो क्या इस बात को ध्यान में रखेंगे?

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: I am aware of the problems of Uttar Pradesh and its various regions. The group that I had appointed, I have every reason to believe, will take into account the relevant fects.

Impact of Liberalisation Policy on North -East Development

*382. DR. SANJAYA SINH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state: (a) whether Government are aware that there has been no positive impact of the new liberalisation policy on the

development of the North-East region and no major investment, foreign or Indian, has taken place despite the tax holiday and other concessions announced by Government for this region;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have since examined the viability of the gas-based Amguri Power Project in Assam and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government propose to extend the counter-guarantee to the above projects in view of the industrial backwardness of the North-Eastern States and if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (d) Several initiatives have been taken in the North-East region since he advant of liberalisation. Among them is the Assam Gas Cracker Project at an estimated cost of Rs. 3000 crores including a Capital subsidy of Rs. 377 crores from the Central Government. Recently, IDA assistance for the Assam Rural Infrastructure and Agricultural Services Project for US dollar 126 million has been negotiated. Further the cumulative value of Central Sector Investment Proposals cleared by the Public Investment Board (PIB) for the North Eastern States since 1992 is approximately Rs. 4700 crores. In recognition of the need for further special measures to develop the North East. and with view to accelerating industrial development in the region, the Budget Speech for 1995-96 had announced the setting up of a North Eastern Development Bank in order to finance the creation, expansion and modernisation of industrial enterprises and infrastructure projects in the region. The Bank, which is to be located within the region, is expected to have an authorised capital of Rs. 500 crores. The Amguri Power Project, as also other aspectss of the project are being examined by the Department of Power.

डा. संजय सिंह : माननीय महोदय, पूर्वोत्तर राज्यों में बहुत सारी ऐसी समस्यायें हैं जो कश्मीर से भी ज्यादा गंभीर हैं । माननीय मंत्री जी ने मेरे सवाल के उत्तर में जवाब दिया है :—

"1992 से उत्तर-पूर्वी राज्यों के लिये सार्वजनिक निवेश बोर्ड (पी०आई०बी०) द्वारा स्वीकृत किये गये केन्द्रीय बोर्ड के निवेश प्रस्तावों का संचित मूल्य 4700 करोड़ रुपये है ।"

मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि कितना अभी तक रिएलाइज हो चुका है और कितना इस पर इम्पलीमेंटेशन हुआ है?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH): Sir, we do appreciate that the North-Eastern Region of the Union, there are some special problems and, therefore, the Government has special responsibilities for the development of that region. It is precisely in recognition of that responsibility that the Central Government agreed to the esablishment of a gas cracker unit in the joint sector costing Rs. 3,000 crores or more for which a capital subsidy of Rs. 377 crores has been promised by the Central Government because of the disadvantages of location of that particular project in the north-Eastern Region. Sir, more recently, we have negotiated the IDA rural infrastructure project in the agriculture sector of above Rs. 400 crores to modernise the agriculcural infrastructure of Assam State. As regards the projects in the Central sector, the projects which are under implementation and are at various stages are: the Numaligarh Refinery costing Rs. 1830.00 crores, the Assam Gas based Power project, Kathalguri, costing Rs. 816.16 crores, the LPG Recovery Plant At Lakwa, costing Rs. 232.30 crores, the Kopili Hydro Electric Project Stage-I. costing Rs. 133.87 crores, the Modernisation of Digboi Refinery costing Rs. 358.34 crores, Catalytic Reformer at Digboi Refinery costing Rs. 112.00 crores, the 4x21 MW, GT Ramachandra Nagar.

Tripura, costing Rs.361.90 crores, the Transmission System Associated with Kathalguri PP, costing Rs.678.44 crores and Augmentation of Transmission System—South Assam, Mizoram, costing Rs.89.13 crores. Sir, these are some of the projects which are under implementation. which have been sanctioned and approved by the PIB|CCEA since 1992.

डा० संजय सिंह : माननीय महोदय, यह तो जानकारी में आया है कि बहुत सारा ऐसा पैसा है जो उन प्रांतों के डेवलपमेंट के लिये है लेकिन दूसरे अन्य मदों पर वह खर्च किया जा रहा है। तो मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि जो अभी आपने मात्राएं बताई धन की, क्या इसमें इंक्लूसिव है 4700 करोड़ रुपया या अलग-अलग है और दूसरा कि एप्रेजल के बाद भी इम्प्लीमेंटेशन नहीं हुआ, इसका क्या कारण है?

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: Sir, as I mentioned, these projects have been approved, sanctioned and are at various stages of implementation. So, there is no question of non-implementation of the Report.

SHRI DAVID LEDGER: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is obvious that the new liberalisation policy has failed to have its desired effect in the North-East. Sir, we have not yet seen any major private sector coming forward to invest in that area and reason is not far to seek. This has happened because of lack of infrastructure. Sir, the hon. Minister will definitely agree with me that the North-East does not have a proper infrastructure. We do not have an adequate surface transport system. We do not have adequate power supply. Whatever power supply we have is very erratic. We do not have a proper water management system. Sir, this is precisely the reason why we are lacking in the investment. Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister (a) whether the Government will come forward with a comprehensive policy to boost the infrastructure industry and (b) whether the incentive of tax holiday will be extended to the sick public sector units for their revival? Thank you.

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: The Government shares the concern of hon. Members for increased investment in the North-Eastern Regions and I do appreciate that because of various factors beyond the control of the Region, by itself this region cannot attract large-scale private investment. There is need for initial investment in infrastrucuture including roads, transport and the power sector. Some of the projects that I have mentioned have been set up in the Central sector, below precisely the power sectors. And with regard to the tax holiday, as early as in 1993 I had announced a special scheme of tax incentive for new industrial units to be set up in the North-Eastern Region precisely for the reason that the North-Eastern Region deserves a very special consideration. In this year's Budget, I have announced the establishment of a North-Eastern Development Bank with an authorised capital of Rs. 500 crores to mobilise and channel more resources for the industrial and infrastructural development of the North-Eastern Region. The Government is very serious and earnest about doing all that is possible to accelerate the tempo of economic development and in particular, the industrial development in this very vital region of our union.

SHRI DAVID LEDGER: Sir, I did'nt get any reply to the (b) part of my question regarding extension of the tax holiday scheme to the sick public sector units for their revival and rehabilitation. Will the Minister kindly respond?

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: Well, we have no plans for extending any special tax concession for sick units. If the sick units are referred to the BIFR, the BIFR goes into the programmes of rehabilitation, and if these programmes of rehabilitation are acceptable to the Government, we will implement the scheme. But I cannot announce a general plan on tax exemption for sick units just now.

श्री दिग्विजय सिंह : सभापति महोदय, सरकार ने पिछले दिनों यह घोषणा की थी कि पावर प्रोजेक्ट्स में बिना किसी

टैंडर के कोई एम.ओ.यू. राज्य सरकार या केन्द्र सरकार किसी भी कम्पनी के साथ नहीं करेगी। मगर पिछले दिनों में ऐसा देखने को मिला है कि राज्य सरकारों ने बिना किसी टेंडर के बड़ी परियोजनाओं का एम.ओ.यू. विदेशी कम्पनियों से किया है। तो मेरा सवाल माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी से है कि क्या ऐसे एम.ओ.यू. को इनकी सरकार मान्यता देती है और अगर ऐसी चीजों को मान्यता देगी तो जो काउंटर गारन्टी की बात कही जा रही थी, उस काउंटर गारन्टी का क्या होगा? वह भारत सरकार ने कह दिया कि हम काउंटर गारन्टी नहीं देंगे। तो क्या ऐसे कांट्रेक्ट को भारत की सरकार काउंटर गारन्टी देगी या नहीं ?

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: This is a question which ought to be addressed to my colleauge, the hon. Minister of Power.

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : सभापति महोदय, यह जो लिबरलाइजेशन की पालिसी है, उसका एक इम्पैक्ट यह हो रहा है कि जो एरिया डेवलप्ड है, वहीं पर ज्यादा इनवेस्टमेंट हो रहा है और जो बैकवर्ड रीजन है वहां इनवेस्टमेंट हो रहा है। इस तरह से अनईवन डेवलपमेंट का प्रासेस और भी ट्रेथन सीरियस क्राइसिस के रूप में हो रहा है जो आगे चल कर नेशनल युनिटी के लिये थ्रेट होगा।

सेकेंडली क्या है कि वे सभी इंडस्ट्रीज जब एक ही कंसंट्रेटेड एरिया में आते हैं तो पॉल्यूशन का प्रॉब्लम, जैसे दिल्ली में सुप्रीम कोर्ट को आदेश देना पड़ा कि 9000 इंडस्ट्रियल यूनिटस को यहां से हटाया जाये, शिफ्ट किया जाये। इन बातों को देखते हुये क्या सरकार इस बात की जांच करायेगी एक एक्सपर्ट की कमेटी बहाल करके कि यह जो पालिसी है, उससे कितना ऐसेंचुएट हो रहा है अनईवन डेवलपमेंट का और पाल्यूशन को ये कैसे कंट्रोल कर रहे हैं, इस पर कोई जांच कमेटी सरकार बैठायेगी?

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: Sir, I have mentioned on more than one occasion that liberalisation is no panacea for all the ills of our country. It, I believe, helps our country to move forward on the industrial front. But it is also not right to say that all parts of our country can derive adequate, equal, benefit from this scheme. That is why, for the regions which are backward, particularly, the North-Eastern Region, the Government has devised special packages to ensure speedy development. It is, precisely, in these areas that there is a need for increased involvement of the public sector. The fact that the Government is getting out of the general business of running industry and trade increases opportunities for the Government hereafter to increase its involvement in those regions of the country which are relatively backward. To that extent, the overall thrust of our policy should enhance the Government's manoeuvrability to deal with the problem of backwardness much more effectively than was the case before.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Sir, this was not my question. My simple question was whether, the Government would have the matter enquired into to find out the impact of this liberalisation policy in terms of the uneven development of the country which, one day, may pose a threat to the unity of our country. The second part of my question was about pollution. I referred to Delhi in that connection, where over 9,000 industrial units have been ordered by the Supreme Court to relocate themselves. My questions were different. The Minister has given a general lecture. That I appreciate. But I would like to know specifically whether, on this serious matter, the Government is going to set up an enquiry or not.

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: As of now, the Government has no proposal to set up any special enquiry.

As far as the environmental aspects of the problem are concerned, the Environment Impact Analysis is obligatory for all projects. The general policy is not

to allow concentration of industries in metropolitan areas. If the existing guidelines are effectively implemented I think the type of concern which the hon. Member has expressed—I do share his concern—would be taken care of.

श्री रामजी लाल : मान्यवर, आपके द्वारा मैं मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहूंगा कि आज इस जमाने में पावर की बड़ी कमी है और इसके लिये क्या सरकार ने काउंटर गारन्टी देने के प्रस्ताव को मंजूर, किया है या नामंजूर किया है ? यदि नहीं तो सभी पावर-ग्रिडों के लिये सरकार की क्या राय है ? जैसे एम.ओ.यू. बहुत साइन हुये हैं । कई स्टेटस इनको इंस्टॉल नहीं कर सकतीं तो मेरी आपके द्वारा यह प्रार्थना है कि मंत्री जी से एम.ओ.यू. साइन के लिये केन्द्र सरकार गारन्टी दे ।

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: Sir, the Cabinet had taken a decision to give counter-guarantee for not more than 8 projects and that the counter-guarantee would be given only if there are credible assurances with regard to performance norms of the State Electricity Boards. Beyond these 8 projects, the Government have already declared that they have no plans to give any additional counter-guarantee.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister: What has been the quantum of investment in the North-Eastern States after the liberalisation policy? Secondly, what has been its impact on the *per capita* income of these States, which has been very low? Thirdly, what is the number of persons, educated persons, qualified persons, who have migrated from these areas to the other States? Lastly, what is the number of people who have gone below the poverty line in these areas?

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: Sir, I need a separate notice to answer this question. As far as investment is concerned, with regard to investment approvals since 1992 I have already given the figures, and the hon. Member knows that between approval and actual implementation there is always a time lag. So I cannot, I think, today answer his question. Nor will it be possible, even later on, for example, to answer all the queries. But if the hon. Member places a separate question, we will try to answer it.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: But can you send me this information?

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: I am sorry, I don't have the information.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Not today, but after a week?

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: I do not have this information. Nor can it be easily compiled.

Scientific Research Education programmes on Television

*383. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BOARDCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of hours per week allotted for scientific research education programmes on Television;

(b) where there is any proposal to change or add or cut some time already allotted for this purpose;

(c) what are the criteria for selecting serials in television programmes; and

(d) whether any complaints have been received in regard to selection of serials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.